

The Third Evil Of The Tongue: Lying

My Advice To The Women, Part 5

By Umm Abdillaah al-Waadi'eeyyah

A lie is that which opposes, and is at variance with actual reality.

Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, said:

It is only those who believe not in the Aayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) of Allâh, who fabricate falsehood, and it is they who are liars.

Soorah An-Nahl (16):105

➤ *Lying is from the signs of the hypocrite*

Lying is from the signs of the hypocrite as is reported in the Saheehayn upon the authority of Aboo Hurairah (Radiya Allaahu 'Anhu) that the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) said:

"The signs of the hypocrite are three: Whenever he speaks he lies, whenever he promises he breaks it, and if you trust him he proves to be dishonest."

➤ *Lying leads to wickedness*

It is reported in the Saheehayn upon the authority of Abdullaah Ibn Mas'ood said that the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) said:

"Truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. A man continues to tell the truth and strives to be truthful until he is written before Allaah as a trustworthy person. Lying leads to wickedness and wickedness leads to the Hell Fire. A man keeps telling lies until he is written before Allaah as a liar."

The person whose disposition is to lie, and is accustomed to lying so much so that it becomes part of his character, will be written before Allaah as a liar, in the midst of the liars.

Surely, nobody would be pleased that it be said about them that they are a liar, in the presence of the people. So is it not more deserving that they prevent themselves from being written as a liar before Allaah, and his Lord is the One who created and sustained him? We ask Allaah for well being.

Consequently, the people will not believe the one who lies. His narrations will be discarded and he will be loathed and detested by the people.

The poet spoke truthfully when he said:

How foul are lies! The one who lies is detested
How beautiful is truthfulness, to Allaah and the people.

➤ *Lying is from the major sins*

It is reported in al-Bukhaari upon the authority of Samurah bin Jundab.
"The Messenger of Allaah (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) used to regularly say to his Companions: 'Who amongst you had a dream last night?' So he would narrate that which Allaah had willed for him to narrate. One day he said to us: 'Two men came to me last night, so they sent me and said, "Proceed," so I proceeded with them."

There comes in the hadeeth: "As for the one you passed, and his cheeks, nostrils and eyes were being torn away, from front to back, he was a liar. He used to leave his house in the morning and tell a lie which would spread all over the world."

➤ *The greatest of all lies is lying upon Allaah*

He, the Most High, said:

Then, who does more wrong than one who utters a lie against Allâh, and denies the truth [this Qur'ân, the Prophet (Muhammad (Sallallaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam)), the Islâmic Monotheism, the Resurrection and the reward or punishment according to good or evil deeds] when it comes to him! Is there not in Hell an abode for the disbelievers?
Soorah Az-Zumar (39):32

He, The Most High said:

And who does more wrong than he who invents a lie against Allâh or denies the truth (Muhammad (sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) and his doctrine of Islâmic Monotheism and this Qur'ân), when it comes to him? Is there not a dwelling in Hell for disbelievers (in the Oneness of Allâh and in His Messenger Muhammad (sallallaahu alayhi wasallam))?
Soorah Al-'Ankaboot (29):18

➤ *Different forms of lying*

Promising to give a child something and in (actuality) it is a lie. Like when the mother says to her child: 'Come here, I will give you this,' and if he came she would not give him anything.

There is a hadeeth relating to this reported by Imaam Ahmad (2/452) by way of Ibn Shihaab upon the authority of Aboo Hurairah that the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wassallam) said:

"Whosoever says to their child: 'Come, I will give you this,' and they do not give them anything, then this is a lie."

In the chain of narration there is a breakage as Az-Zuhree never heard from Aboo Hurairah, as documented in 'Jaami' At-Tahseel'. Refer to the book 'Ahadeeth Mu'Allaah' pg.233.

Lying to children opens up a door to widespread evil, as the child will inherit this notion. He will lie when he speaks, and he will promise then break it.

Even the people in Pre-Islamic times used to detest lying, because it was viewed as a dispraiseworthy characteristic. There you had Aboo Sufyaan, when he was asked by Hirqil (Heraculis) about the virtues of the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam), he replied to him truthfully and said: 'By Allaah if it were not that lying would blemish my character I would have lied.' i.e. upon the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam), as at that time Aboo Sufyaan hadn't accepted Islaam.

➤ *Making the people laugh by telling lies is another form of lying*

Imam At-Tirmidhee reported (4/557: no.2351) upon the authority of the grandfather of Bahz Ibn Hakeem that the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) said: "Woe be to the one who lies to make the people laugh. Woe be to him. Woe be to him."

At-Tirmidhee said this hadeeth is sound.

I say (Umm Abdillaah): it is just as he stated.

It was also reported by Aboo Dawud (2/716), Ahmad (5/3, 5, 7) and Al Hakim (1/46)

➤ *A person falsely claiming: 'I saw such and such in my dream,' and they never saw a thing, is another form of lying*

Imam Al-Bukhaari (12/427) reported upon the authority of Ibn Abbaas that the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) said: "He who narrates a dream, which he has not seen, will be put to the task of joining a knot two barely seeds, which he will not be able to do..."

➤ *Another form of lying is when a person says: 'I saw such and such,' and in reality they didn't see it*

Imam Al-Bukhaari reports upon the authority of 'Abdullaah Ibn 'Umar that the Prophet (Salla Allaahu 'Alayhi wa sallam) said: "The worst of lies is to pretend to have seen something which he has not seen."

It is obligatory upon us all to be truthful with Allaah and with the people. So, woman to woman, we should always aspire to be truthful; and in the future truthfulness will become a characteristic of ours, as is mentioned in the hadeeth of Ibn Mas'ood which was quoted earlier.

Furthermore, the truthful person is trusted by the people, both in his speech and his interactions with them. Truthfulness also raises the rank of the one who possesses this quality, with the creation and before The Creator. Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, said:

O you who believe! Fear Allaah and be amongst the truthful.
Soorah al-Ahzaab (33): 70